

REMARKS

Claims 1-13, and 19-40 are pending in the application. Claims 14-18 have been canceled herein without prejudice. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-40 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) AND 103(a)

Claims 14-16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,457,803 ("Ohkoda"). Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkoda in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,168,320 ("Ono"). Since claims 14-18 have been canceled herein without prejudice, the rejections are now believed to be moot. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

It is noted Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter recited in claims 14-18 presented in the previous Amendment C (dated December 5, 2003) in related applications.

II. CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-843-6200, ext. 245.

Respectfully submitted,
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Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

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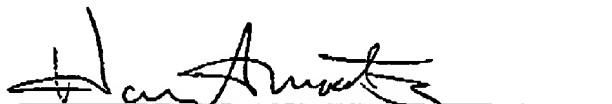
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Expires: August 28, 2004



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